01176

1964/08/02

13.

FILE COPY

TELCON

GREENFIELD
BALL

8/2/64 10:45 am

Greenfield believes this might develop into a political problem. This is a case of the North Vietnamese attakcing us; this is a parallel of the Chinese coming across the border. Jim said the more he thought about it the more he thinks that people who want to take it that way will start asking us if this isn't an entirely new situation; also question will be asked what's the difference in them coming out to sea and attacking us and the Chinese coming across the border.

Jim said since torpedos are being fired, questions will be asked how many people aboard ship, etc. For people who want to make something out of this, and there will be enough, that they can see everything from a Declaration of War in it.

Greenfield said Humphrey on Face the Nation today and Bill Miller is on Issues and Answers. Ball felt we ought to brief Humphrey on this. Greenfield still feels that the thing we are going to have to cope with is that this is an entirely new thing that has happened and we are directly involved with the North Vietnamese in an organized way and a deliberate attack.

hh